

Meeting Date: January 27, 2022

Agenda Item No. 5B

Agenda Item: Property Disposal (ACTION)

Bureau Chief Approval: JR

Prepared by: Bill Bosworth, Natural Resources Program Coordinator

Background:

The Department periodically reviews land holdings and maintains a list of properties no longer serving the purpose for which they were acquired and are not supporting the Department's mission.

When disposal requires the sale of property, title is transferred to the Idaho Board of Land Commissioners, and Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) manages the process identified in Idaho Code (Idaho Code sections 58-331 and 58-332) for disposing of State surplus property. Expenses accrued during this process by IDL and IDFG would be paid for with revenue from the property sale, and any profit from the sale would be returned to IDFG.

Department staff are requesting Commission approval to initiate the disposal process for 9 properties:

Rockford Bay Access Site, Panhandle Region

This is a 0.6-acre parcel in Kootenai County on Lake Coeur d'Alene. This property was purchased to provide angler access. However, the property is primarily used for public parking, and the associated lake access is infrequently used.

Clark Fork Hatchery, Panhandle Region

Hatchery operations on this 20-acre parcel in Bonner County ceased in 2000 because fish present in the facility's source water carried Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis Virus, and the hatchery fish could not be protected from the disease. Since 2000, the facility has served as a work station for Panhandle Region staff and as a residence for contractors working on Department projects. Department operations moved in 2021 to other facilities and the Clark Fork property is no longer needed.

Greer Access Site, Clearwater Region

The Greer Access Site on the Clearwater River in Clearwater County was originally acquired to provide fishing access for anadromous anglers. The property consists of 3 small tracts. The Department would dispose of 2.75 acres located within the Greer building lots and lacking river frontage, and would retain the single parcel with river frontage for angler access.

McGill Spur Access Site, Clearwater Region

Fourteen acres in Clearwater County were originally acquired to provide fishing access to the Clearwater River for anadromous anglers. This property consists of 2 tracts separated by a railroad right-of-way paralleling the river. The Department would dispose of 11.75 acres lacking river frontage and retain a 2.25-acre parcel with river frontage to provide river access.

Middle Fork Payette River Wildlife Habitat Area, Southwest Region

The Department was gifted 9.37 acres along the Middle Fork Payette River in 1991. This parcel provides minimal habitat for wildlife population management. It is landlocked by adjacent private land and has no road access, so the value for public access is low.

Emmett Airport Pond Access Site, Southwest Region

This 16.8-acre parcel in Gem County was acquired in 1961 to provide fishing access. This property receives low public use.

Boulder Hole Access Site, Southwest Region

This 4.26-acre parcel was originally acquired to provide access to a popular fishing site on the Little Salmon River. A flood in 1997 altered the river channel, and public use of the site is now low.

Deer Creek Hay Shed, Magic Valley Region

This 1-acre parcel in Camas County was initially acquired to support big game winter feeding operations. This property is no longer required for this purpose.

Thorn Creek Wildlife Habitat Area, Magic Valley Region

This property comprises 5.3 acres in Gooding County. The size and location of the site limits its utility for wildlife benefit, and public use of the site is very low.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission has the authority to acquire land (Idaho Code section 36-104(b)(7)) but needs to rely on the Idaho Board of Land Commissioners to dispose of land. Land acquisition and disposal must be in accordance with Commission and Department land acquisition policy.

Public Involvement Process:

Acquisition of properties and identification of surplus properties for sale is approved by action of the Commission in open session. Sale of surplus properties are authorized and implemented via the State Land Board, which is the state authority for sale of state property.

Justification:

These properties are no longer serving the purpose for which they were acquired, are not supporting the Department's mission, and divert Department resources that could be more efficiently used elsewhere. The recommended action would allow staff to transfer title to the Idaho Board of Land Commissioners for disposal purposes.

Staff Recommendation:

Initiate the disposal process, which would culminate in transferring 9 properties to the Idaho Board of Land Commissioners for disposal as surplus property.

Suggested Motion: I move that the Commission authorize Department staff to initiate disposal processes as presented.